



NIRB File: 26YN023

link: www.nirb.ca/project/126437

Nunavut Planning Commission File No.: 151125

July 2, 2026

To: The Honourable Joanne Thompson
Minister of Fisheries
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Sent via email: joanne.thompson@parl.gc.ca

Re: Screening Decision for GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research's "Ocean Change 2026" Project Proposal, Qikiqtani Region

Dear Honourable Minister:

On April 13, 2026, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral pursuant to the Nunavut Agreement and *NuPPAA* to conduct a screening¹ of GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research's "Ocean Change 2026" project proposal and after completing the required process, the NIRB determined² that **a review of the project is not required** and recommended specific terms and conditions³.

The attached Screening Decision Report provides the regulatory framework, scope of proposal and Board's assessment process, public engagement, factors relevant for the determining significance of impacts, and recommended project-specific terms and conditions. Additional information on the project can be viewed on the NIRB's public registry at the link at the top of this letter.

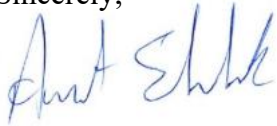
The NIRB look forward to receiving a response from the Minister, and any questions on the Board's assessment process or the Screening Decision Report can be directed to the NIRB's Director, Operations, Tara Arko at 1-866-233-3033 Ext. 500 or tarko@nirb.ca.

1 Pursuant to Article 12, Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.4 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and section 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NuPPAA)*

2 Pursuant to s. 92(1)(a) of the *NuPPAA*

3 Pursuant to s. 92(2)(a) of the *NuPPAA*

Sincerely,



Albert Ehloak
Chairperson for Screening Panel
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosure (1): Screening Decision Report, NIRB File No.: 26YN023 (July 2, 2026)

cc: Regulators
David Akeegok, Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College
Olayuk Akesuk, President, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Mosha Cote, Manager, Research Liaison, Government of Nunavut
José Audet-Lecouffe, Acting Team Lead, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Jared Ottenhof, Director, Qikiqtani Nunaliirijikkut, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Chris Spencer, Asst. Director, Lands and Resource Management, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Conor Goddard, Manager of Project Monitoring and Compliance, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Assol Kubeisinova, Senior Manager, Lands and Regulatory Review, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Clemens von Scheffer, GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research